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FLOOR DEBATE

February 28, 2001 LB 287

organ, and also to expand the formulary that the department would do on a periodic time-to-time basis to cover the transplant drugs. The drugs that were covered originally when the first legislation passed dealt with the types of transplants that didn't require as technical, I guess is best...the best word I can think of off the top of my head, type of drug because they were exact match, live donor. Now that we have the ability to transplant other organs as well as organs from cadavers, it's made it possible for more people to have their lives saved, but it comes with a cost and a substantial number of Nebraskans have tremendous financial difficulty in meeting the costs of those drugs, either as "copays" or as straight-up costs because their insurance doesn't cover it. This is a process that's used in other states. We're just catching up to what most of the Midwestern states are already doing and I ask your support of the bill.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Further debate on LB 287, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, Senator Thompson, I'd like to take the occasion of the first round of debate to get more information from you on how this all works and...and let me...let me start out just with some of the basics of how this all works. First of all, with respect to transplants themselves, who can get transplants and how does that work? I mean...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Thompson,...

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...if...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: ...would you yield?

SENATOR THOMPSON: The bill would cover...

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...if...

SENATOR THOMPSON: Oh, excuse me.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...if I...if I don't have insurance, for